

Status of Claims

Claims 1-12, 15-16, and 19-44 are pending in this Application. Claims 13-14 and 17-18 are canceled, Claims 37-44 are withdrawn, and Claims 1-12, 15-16, and 19-36 stand rejected pursuant to the Final Office Action mailed January 29, 2008 and a Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review mailed July 3, 2008. Specifically, Claims 1-12, 15-16, 19-34 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over German reference No. DE 20004612 to Kewitz (“Kewitz”) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0247389 to Fuchs (“Fuchs”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,296,135 to Anderson et al. (“Anderson”). Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kewitz in view of *Fuchs* and *Anderson* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,024,243 to Palazzo (“Palazzo”). For the reasons discussed below, Appellant respectfully submits that these rejections are improper and should be reversed by the Board. Accordingly, Appellant presents Claims 1-12, 15-16, and 19-36 for Appeal and sets forth these claims in Appendix A.